

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is requested. Claims 42-52 and 54-58 are in the case.

I. CLAIM OBJECTION

Claim 42 has been objected to for the reason set forth in paragraph 1 on page 2 of the Action. In response, claim 42 has been corrected in the present response.

II. THE PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

Claims 42-45, 47 and 48 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by GB 2081278. Claims 42-44, 47, 48 and 50-52 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent 4,770,796 to Jacobs. Claims 46, 49 and 53-58 are free of the prior art.

In response, and without conceding to the merit of the prior art rejections, claim 42 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 53 which is free of the cited prior art. Claim 53 has been canceled without prejudice.

With this amendment, it is believed that all of the outstanding prior art rejections have been obviated. Withdrawal of the anticipation and obviousness rejections is accordingly respectfully requested.

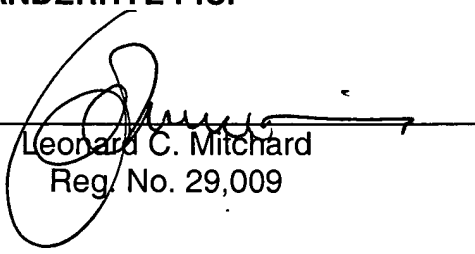
BATES et al
Appl. No. 10/092,423
February 6, 2004

Allowance of the application is awaited.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____



Leonard C. Mitchard
Reg. No. 29,009

LCM:lfm
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor
Arlington, VA 22201-4714
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100